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SET B



INDIAN SCHOOL MUSCAT
HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION
ENGLISH CORE

CLASS: XII
18.09.2019

Sub. Code: 301

Time Allotted: 3 Hrs
Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. *This paper is divided into three Sections: A, B, and C.*
2. *All the sections are compulsory.*
3. *Read the instructions very carefully given with each section and question and follow them faithfully.*
4. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION - A (READING)

Q1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the (12) questions given below:

1. Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make a tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.

2. Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process of growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured

with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.

3. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoiding responsibility.

4. People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his success possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.

5. This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedoms and choices in small ways that made a great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our “ideal goal” looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

1.1 Answer the following questions briefly:

(1x5=5)

- (i) How do small actions and choices impact our lives?
- (ii) Describe organic process of growth through an example from the above passage.
- (iii) What are the negativities that Gandhi overcame to become great?
- (iv) Mention two things that have made a great impact on the lives of all great men?
- (v) What does the writer tell us to beware of when our ideals are not far away from us?

1.2 Pick out the words from the passage which are similar to the following: (1x2=2)

- (i) intentionally / consciously (para-3)
- (ii) instantaneous / immediate (para-1)

1.3 Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1x5=5)

- (i) What does the writer mean by saying '*chipped away at their bad habits*'?
 - (a) Gradually criticised bad habits.
 - (b) Did not like bad habits.
 - (c) Slowly produced bad habits.
 - (d) Steadily gave up bad habits.
- (ii) What is done by great people to transform their lives?
 - (a) They believe in performing everyday.
 - (b) They take small decisions.
 - (c) They approach life on a day-by-day basis.
 - (d) They build character in small ways.
- (iii) The main idea in the first paragraph is that
 - (a) personal changes are not important.
 - (b) overnight success is possible for all of us.
 - (c) big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great.
 - (d) small actions and decisions are important in one's life.
- (iv) According to the writer, character is developed by
 - (a) taking big decisions.
 - (b) doing big things.
 - (c) working on their lives one day at a time.
 - (d) all the above.
- (v) Which of the following statements is true in the context of the third paragraph?
 - (a) Gandhi never made mistakes.
 - (b) Everyday Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way.

- (c) Gandhi became great overnight.
- (d) Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself.

Q.2 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:

(8)

Tourism has emerged as the world's largest industry. Growing rapidly in the last two decades, today it accounts for 6% of world output and employs some 100 million people around the globe. Since the end of the Second World War, it has developed immense revenue and development potential and stands today as a unique natural renewable resource industry.

Tourism-the travel based recreation provides people with a change of visiting a place and a breaking from the monotony of daily life. It brings people of different nations together, allowing them to come into close contact with each other's customs and other aspects of life. It reveals the scenic beauty and past heritage of a country to people belonging to other nations. The knowledge and experience gained in the process can lead to greater understanding and tolerance and can even foster world peace.

The contribution of tourism can nowhere be seen more clearly than on the economic front. A study conducted by the United Nations has shown that developing countries, in particular, can reap handsome benefits out of tourism which greatly boosts national income. Tourism generates employment and adds to the entrepreneurial wealth of nation. While tourism's advantages are many, its undesirable side-effects have raised fresh problems.

Tourism can cause social, cultural or environmental disruption. One of the greatest concern is its damage to the environment. In order to attract more tourist, sprawling resorts are built which take neither the local architectural styles nor the ecology into consideration. Natural systems come to be destroyed as a result of indiscriminate construction to provide water and waste disposal facilities and recreational arrangements to tourists. Over use of environmental wealth disturbs the ecological balance.

Damage is most in wildlife parks which remain the foremost sites of tourist attraction. Tourist vans and the visitor's feet destroy the ground vegetation thus affecting the feeding habits of the animals and landscape as well. Overcrowding brings about congestion, leading to environmental and health hazards.

Tourism often ushers in new life styles. Arrangements, as desired by tourists, are provided in order to make them feel at home. The emergence of the 'other' culture in various places has caused dissatisfaction among the local people. The concern is that the local people tend to imitate the foreign values, breaking away from their own traditions.

To promote safe tourism while ensuring that it remains a profitable industry, it is imperative to understand the factors that hamper the growth of tourism and check them effectively. General instability of the nation is damaging to tourism prospects. Political disturbances, in particular, pose a serious problem. The growing violence in the international scene and increasing threat of terrorism affects the flow of tourists. Countries like Sri Lanka have been a victim to terrorist threats for long and have therefore suffered set-backs in tourism.

- 2.1** On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum 4). Also supply an appropriate title to it. **(4)**
- 2.2** Write a summary of the passage in about 80 -100 words. **(4)**

SECTION - B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

- Q.3** 'Bridals' a renowned garment store of Subhash Nagar, Kolkata requires an experienced Floor Manager not above 45. Draft, in not more than 50 words, an advertisement to be published in 'The Hindu' in classified columns. **(4)**

OR

Your school is organizing a workshop on Assessment of Speaking and Listening. **(4)**
Dr. Jyothi Gupta, eminent linguist and resource person will conduct the workshop. Draft an invitation to be sent to the Principal of DAV School, Sector 28, Delhi to depute four teachers to attend the workshop and sent their names. You are Aadam / Abida, Coordinator of Literary Club of Springdales Public School, Sector 30, Delhi.

- Q.4** Dance, as shown in some reality shows on TV, seems to have a lot of gymnastics. India has a rich tradition of classical and folk dances. Write a letter to the Editor of The Times of India on the need to have shows exclusively of Indian folk and classical dances. You are Neil / Neelam of 26 A, Green Park, New Delhi. **(6)**

OR

You are Mallika / Mayank, a student of Class XII, Modern School, Shimla. You are eager to enter the National Film Academy, Shimla, after your board exams. Write a letter to the Director of the Film Academy seeking more information about the course. (6)

- Q.5** India is facing its worst crises in its history and 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by 2020. Without access to private tankers or rainwater harvesting systems, these low income families are almost entirely dependent on groundwater for basic needs and thus are hit hardest in crises like this. Having come across this report in the newspaper, you decide to write on this issue and how to combat this. Write this article in not more than 200 words. You are Mukesh / Mukta. (10)

OR

Heavy rains in the western coastal regions have caused widespread damage. Floods and landslides have killed more than 270 people, displaced over one million and inundated thousands of homes. This calls for the attention of not only the Government but also the locals. As a concerned environmentalist, you decide to write on this issue and ways to combat this. Write this article in not more than 200 words. You are Mukesh / Mukta. (10)

- Q.6** In the modern era, the widespread use of computers and mobiles has caused potential harm to society. The adverse impact of interactive computer-mediated technologies is that it has harmed people's social lives. Write a speech in not more than 200 words on the 'Harmful Impact of Social Media' to be delivered for the morning assembly. (10)

OR

Though the concept of community service is not very new, its importance has developed in the past few years. Community service can leave a long lasting positive impact on the lives of students for a better society, a better nation and a better world at large. Write a speech in not more than 200 words on 'The Importance of Community Service in Schools' to be delivered for the morning assembly. (10)

SECTION – C (LITERATURE: TEXT BOOKS)

Q.7 Read the following extract and answer the following questions briefly:

(1x4=4)

*Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.*

- a) What are the kinds of wars mentioned in the above lines?
- b) What are green wars?
- c) How would the wars affect our lives?
- d) What could be the ideal situation?

Q.8 Read the following extract and answer the following questions briefly:

(1x4=4)

But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning.

- a) What does '*commotion*' refer to?
- b) Who is the speaker? Whom does the speaker dread?
- c) Why does the speaker want to enter without being seen?
- d) Why was it as quiet as Sunday morning?

Q.9 Answer *any five* of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

(2x5=10)

- a) How does the author, Kalki, satirise the upbringing and education of crown princes of Indian states?
- b) What is the objective of 'Students on Ice' programme?
- c) Why did the peddler decline the ironmaster's invitation?
- d) What does the poet Stephen Spender want for the children of the slums?
- e) What has Mukesh's father achieved despite years of hard labour?

- f) Why does Kamala Das bring in the image of young trees sprinting?
- g) What was the content of the note that Sam wrote to Charley?

Q.10 Answer *any one* of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (6)

- a) The story 'Deep Water' makes you realize that with determination and perseverance, one can accomplish the impossible. Write an article on how positive attitude and courage will aid you to success.
- b) Gandhiji was not satisfied by achieving political or economic solutions – he sought to remove the cultural and social backwardness of Champaran. Explain.

Q.11 Answer *any one* of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (6)

- a) What explains the attitude of the General in the matter of the enemy soldier? Was it human consideration, lack of national loyalty, dereliction of duty or simply self absorption?
- b) The title 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy?' has a question mark. Why? How far do you find it convincing and appropriate?

End of the Question Paper